

Loess Bluffs National Wildlife Refuge Monthly Habitat, Waterfowl and Eagle Survey Report

Date: 2023-12-05

Document Purpose:

This document provides a summary of waterfowl and bald eagle use on Loess Bluffs NWR, updated weekly. Bird estimates are derived using Integrated Waterbird Management and Monitoring (IWMM) protocol using an area count (bird per acre), block or modified block count methods, for more information click on the following links for [IWMM Protocol](#) pages 18 – 21 and [U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service's estimating flock size](#) website.

Habitat Conditions Summary:

Habitat conditions are rated based on ocular estimates of overall habitat condition, area (acres) of wetlands flooded and percentage of wetland frozen using [IWMM Protocol](#) pages 11 – 17.

Habitat Condition	11/14/2023 data	11/21/2023 data	11/28/2023 data	12/05/2023 data
Habitat Conditions Rating	Good	Good	Good	Good
Acres of wetlands flooded	1,980	1,980	2,100	2,165
Percentage of Wetlands Frozen	0%	0%	95%	5%

Waterfowl Species Summary:

Species	Number of Birds observed week of 11/14/2023	Number of Birds observed week of 11/21/2023	Number of Birds observed week of 11/28/2023	Number of Birds observed week of 12/05/2023
Greater White-fronted Goose	13,450	13,925	225	5,875
Snow Goose	16,450	17,700	8,310	32,815
Ross's Goose	Present	Present	Present	Present
Canada Goose	657	570	552	1,020
Trumpeter Swan	91	140	1,168	2,852
Tundra Swan	0	2	0	9
Wood Duck	15	25	0	0
Gadwall	715	180	40	10
American Wigeon	10	10	20	5
American Black Duck	0	0	0	0
Mallard	80,085	86,620	54,995	77,480
Blue-winged Teal	5	0	0	0
Cinnamon Teal	0	0	0	0
Northern Shoveler	370	375	345	55

Species	Number of Birds observed week of 11/14/2023	Number of Birds observed week of 11/21/2023	Number of Birds observed week of 11/28/2023	Number of Birds observed week of 12/05/2023
Northern Pintail	36,805	6,110	640	90
Green-winged Teal	51,455	31,690	7,945	8,230
Canvasback	0	0	0	0
Redhead	0	5	0	0
Ring-necked Duck	5,605	3,000	1,300	3,405
Scaup	10	0	0	0
Bufflehead	15	0	0	0
Common Goldeneye	0	0	0	5
Hooded Merganser	13	9	2	0
Common Merganser	0	0	0	0
Red-breasted Merganser	0	0	0	0
Ruddy Duck	0	0	0	0
Pied-billed Grebe	17	32	0	3
Horned Grebe	0	0	0	0
Eared Grebe	0	0	0	0
American Coot	416	240	130	115

Species Group Summary:

Species Group	Total number of birds observed week of 11/14/2023	Total number of birds observed week of 11/21/2023	Total number of birds observed week of 11/28/2023	Total number of birds observed week of 12/05/2023
Geese	30,557	32,195	9,087	39,710
Dabblers	169,460	125,010	63,985	85,870
Divers	5,643	3,014	1,302	3,410
All Ducks	175,103	128,024	65,287	89,280
Shorebirds	232	53	4	0

Eagles Summary:

Bald Eagles	Total number of birds observed 11/14/2023	Total number of birds observed 11/21/2023	Total number of birds observed 11/28/2023	Total number of birds observed 12/05/2023
Adult	7	17	81	82
Immature	14	18	56	59
All Eagles	21	35	137	141